



# - - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

ATLANTA *Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041*  
DALLAS *Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550*  
NASHVILLE *(Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300*  
RICHMOND *(Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151*  
WASHINGTON *200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226*

July 24, 1989

89-113

Dellanna W. O'Brien elected  
national WMU executive director

By Karen Benson

N-CO  
(WMU)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Dellanna West O'Brien, a former foreign missionary who is president of International Family and Children's Educational Services in Richmond, Va., has been elected national executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

She was elected unanimously by the national WMU executive board during a called meeting July 22 in Albuquerque, N.M. The national WMU staff was notified of the election July 22 and 23.

O'Brien, 56, and her husband, Bill, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will move to Birmingham, Ala., where she will begin work Sept. 1. FMB President R. Keith Parks has asked Bill O'Brien to continue in his present role until the end of the year.

Dellanna O'Brien will succeed Carolyn Weatherford, who will retire Sept. 1 after 15 years in the post to marry Southern Baptist pastor Joe Crumpler Sr. of Cincinnati.

"Carolyn Weatherford has done such a good job that she is not an easy person to find someone to follow," said Christine Gregory, former national WMU president and chairman of the search committee.

The selection process was an in-depth, probing search, Gregory said, noting, "We tried to hear from every single voice who would want to have input into the selection process: the national staff, state WMU presidents, state WMU executive directors and denominational leaders."

No one on the search committee "came with any preconceived notions," Gregory said. "It was just miraculous. I believe with all my heart that God was in this."

"Dellanna O'Brien has a lot of vision to get us ready to go on to the 21st century," said Marjorie J. McCullough, national WMU president. "She has the personal image of what a WMU leader needs to be in the 1990s. We are excited about her coming and look forward to working closely with her."

O'Brien's qualifications fit well with the profile the search committee had drawn up, McCullough said. Among them, she cited:

-- She grew up in missions organizations in her local church.

-- She is committed to missions and has been a foreign missionary. O'Brien and her husband served in Indonesia from 1962 to 1971. "The fact that she has been a missionary was very important to this committee," Gregory said.

-- She has been involved in starting churches in the United States since returning from the mission field in 1971.

-- Her educational background has equipped her for a leadership role in missions education.

O'Brien has a bachelor of science degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, a master of education degree in elementary education from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and a doctor of education degree in educational leadership from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

--more--

Her professional career has included educational service in Texas and Virginia as an elementary school classroom teacher and as educational diagnostician and specialist with learning-disabled students. She also has been a teacher and reading specialist, then assistant head, then head of the Lower School at The Collegiate Schools in Richmond.

She also is a member of the Henrico (Va.) County School Board, which has 30,000 pupils in 50 schools.

-- She is a businesswoman who owns her own educational testing company. International Family and Children's Educational Services is a non-profit organization providing academic evaluation and advisory services for children of American families living overseas.

These students include children of American missionaries and others involved in business, the military or government. She has done testing in Brazil, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Ecuador.

She also has been committee chairman of the children's education committee for missionary orientation for the Foreign Mission Board and chairman of the committee that designed the children's orientation program and facility for the FMB Missionary Learning Center.

"She has personal appeal to today's businesswoman, as well as to a mother who is rearing children," McCullough said.

Agreed Gregory: "She is in today's world. She has business acumen -- and we are especially mindful of that with so many women working today. We knew whoever we selected would be running a multimillion-dollar business. She will be directing a large corporation. We knew we needed someone with strong administrative skills and someone who knows how to plan for the future."

-- She is committed to the auxiliary status of WMU within the Southern Baptist Convention.

-- She has not been involved in the denominational controversy that has plagued the SBC for a decade.

"We wanted someone who was not involved in the denominational conflict in any sort of way," Gregory said. "We didn't want her to come in with a strike against her from either side of the controversy, but rather someone who could come at it from a new vantage point and be judged for who she is and what she does."

-- She can relate well to pastors and to pastors' wives.

-- She has a deep spiritual commitment. "She is a deeply spiritual woman and can articulate well her faith in God and his word," McCullough said.

-- She is a good public speaker with experience as a workshop and seminar leader and conference speaker.

-- She personally has been involved in missions-related activities in an inner-city church.

-- She can relate well to working mothers. She and her husband have three children, two grandchildren and another grandchild on the way.

Daughter Denise O'Brien Basden and her husband, Paul, live in Irving, Texas, with their two girls, ages 8 and 3. Another daughter, Erin O'Brien Puryear, and her husband, Rich, live in Richmond. Their first baby is due in September. Son Ross O'Brien and his wife, Lisa, live in Fort Worth, Texas.

"She is what we sense that we need now," Gregory said. "I believe she is who we need for this time in our history."

"What an honor it is to follow Carolyn Weatherford and Alma Hunt and others throughout the years who have brought such fine leadership to WMU," O'Brien said.

--more--

She confessed being both delighted and scared as she assumes the new position, but cited assurances from God that she had made the right decision. "This will be so different for Bill and for me," O'Brien said. "But we've always been committed to following God's will. The Lord has never let us down."

O'Brien pledged strong commitment to the basics of WMU: missions education, mission support, mission action and personal witnessing, and undergirding the work of the local church in the denomination. She also cited commitment to the auxiliary status of WMU within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Her first priority, she said, will be to get to know the national WMU staff in Birmingham and to get to know the WMU executive board.

Setting new directions and planning for WMU's future will be high on the list, too, she said: "We're living in a new world where everybody's having to look to the future. It is certainly no less true of WMU. But it's not something you can do once and for all. We must continue to update and equip for the future."

--30--

Hunger gifts drop to  
lowest level since 1984

By Louis Moore (LL)

N-10  
Baptist Press  
7/24/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--For the first six months of 1989, Southern Baptist gifts to their denomination's program of worldwide hunger ministries have dropped to their lowest point since the same recording period in 1984.

Cumulative figures from the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home mission boards indicate hunger gifts to date stand at \$3,163,411, compared to \$4,076,496 at the same point in 1988, \$3,182,648 in 1987, \$3,877,085 in 1986 and \$6,004,267 in 1985.

Records for the comparable period in 1984 from the Home Mission Board are unavailable, but HMB total hunger receipts for that year were \$617,871. The Foreign Mission Board received \$2,059,574 during the first six months of 1984.

The FMB reported gifts to hunger relief and development abroad during the first half of 1989 were \$2,652,459, compared to \$3,524,367 in 1988 and \$2,612,285 in 1987. A \$1 million gift to the FMB in January 1988 boosted hunger giving for the first six months of that year.

Contributions for domestic hunger through the HMB stood at \$510,952 through June 1989, compared to \$552,129 for the same period in 1988 and \$570,363 for the same period in 1987.

In 1985, Southern Baptists contributed a record \$11.8 million for combined hunger ministries abroad and at home, shattering the previous record of \$7.2 million in 1984. Hunger giving in 1986 dropped to \$9 million where it leveled off in 1987 and 1988.

"The drop in hunger gifts is most disappointing," said Robert Parham, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission responsible for hunger concerns. "We may be headed toward the lowest level of hunger giving since 1984."

"Southern Baptists in the past decade have fed millions of people and helped hundreds of thousands of hungry people to feed themselves. I hope and pray that Southern Baptists will not let the hunger-giving channel dry up during the remainder of 1989," Parham said.

"The convention's hunger ministries are operated with an extraordinarily high level of integrity. One hundred percent of hunger contributions through the foreign and home mission boards are spent on hunger needs. Moreover, the ministries are most effective," he said.

John Cheyne, FMB senior consultant for human needs ministries, said, "At this stage, it is difficult to ascertain why these gifts have dropped so much." The decline may relate to the lack of media attention to hunger needs lately and other actions, he added.

Nathan Porter, HMB hunger consultant, said the decline means "it is extremely urgent that churches observe World Hunger Sunday in October, that our people become familiar with the needs of world hunger and that we give accordingly."

--30--

National Baptist Convention of Mexico  
recognizes border-area congregations

By Ken Camp

N - Texas

PUEBLA, Mexico (BP)--The National Baptist Convention of Mexico recently took steps toward formally recognizing and organizing an association of rural churches started through the Texas Baptist River Ministry.

During the 80th annual meeting of the Mexican convention, July 16-21 in Puebla, Pueblo., the convention's missions committee unanimously approved a plan to recognize the border congregations as a fellowship of churches, the first step toward full status as an association.

With Ojinaga as its hub, the new fellowship includes 24 churches and numerous missions in the states of Coahuila and Chihuahua, south of Big Bend.

Juan Ponce, a church planter and rural missions pastor who has worked extensively with the Rio Grande River Ministry, helped start 18 of those congregations. Ponce presented the request for formal recognition to the missions committee.

"Traditionally, it could take years for all of the churches to be formally recognized," said Daniel Rangel, church growth director, for the Mexican convention. "But there is no reason to wait. We should take care of them all at one time."

Celebration of that committee action and preparation for the first-ever international simultaneous revivals in 1990 highlighted the annual River Ministry breakfast July 20 in Puebla. More than two dozen border-area pastors and missions directors gathered for the meeting with representatives of the Mexican convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

During the "Here's Hope" statewide simultaneous revivals next March, April and May, many churches in Mexican associations along the Rio Grande will join their Texas Baptist counterparts in holding revival services.

"Several churches have planned pulpit exchanges across the border during the revivals, with Hispanic Texas Baptists preaching in the Mexican churches and Mexican Baptists preaching in the Texas congregations," said Elmin Howell, Texas Baptist River Ministry coordinator,

About 70 bilingual Texas Baptists from throughout the state have made commitments to be involved in the border-area revival services. Howell urged pastors at the breakfast to invite other preachers, singers and counselors from throughout Mexico to take part in the revivals.

--30--

Richard Land endorses  
Mennen-Clorox boycott

N - (CO)  
(CLC)

Baptist Press  
7/24/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has endorsed the boycott of the Mennen Company and Clorox Corporation being promoted by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television.

According to CLear-TV, the two companies were leading sponsors of sex, violence and profanity during the recent sweeps period of April 27-May 24.

CLear-TV is a coalition composed of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders, including the heads of over 70 denominations and scores of bishops and leaders from nearly every denomination in America.

Land said, "I feel that the efforts of CLear-TV deserve support by those concerned with the increasing amount of sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping being shown by the networks. CLear-TV tried for three years to convince the advertisers and networks to change their programming, but their voices went unnoticed."

Land said selective buying is good Christian stewardship. "In this case, it will also send a clear message not only to Mennen and Clorox, but to other advertisers and thus to the networks that the American public wants more clean, wholesome, family-oriented programming and less sex, violence and profanity," he said.

--more--

"I agree with the philosophy of Clear-TV in dealing with the violence and vulgarity on television. Their philosophy is that the networks are free to show what they want, the advertisers are free to sponsor what they desire, the consumer is free to spend his or her money where they desire. This system works and it protects the rights of all parties involved. I encourage others to support the boycott of Mennen and Clorox so that they, other advertisers and the networks get the message."

Land said advertiser boycotts are an especially effective democratic procedure for communicating public dissatisfaction with free-enterprise companies such as television networks because television executives are business people who are fixated on "bottom line" profits.

"Networks, which use the public airwaves, have by abandoning their self-policing system drastically lowered their standards for network programming," he said.

"Network programming is different in nature from other forms of entertainment," Land said. It is not like a video which you buy or rent, or a record which you purchase and bring into your home or a movie which you go to see. You turn on a TV in your home and network programming is there. That is why it must be dealt with differently. No other form of entertainment invades our homes as pervasively as network TV.

"A recent poll by consumer research firm Oxtoby-Smith of New York showed that 72 percent of the American public believes it is a good idea for consumers not to buy products of advertisers who sponsor offensive programs," Land said.

Clorox products which Clear-TV is asking concerned individuals to boycott include Act laundry detergent, Clorox bleach, Clorox 2, Formula 409 cleaner, Fresh Scent liquid bleach, Soft Scrub cleaner, Strike household cleanser, Tackle cleaner, Tilex cleaner, Twice as Fresh deodorizer, Wave dry bleach and powder detergent, Fresh Step and Litter Green cat litter, Hidden Valley Ranch dressing, Kitchen Bouquet microwave browning spray and seasoning, Kingsford and Matchlight charcoal, Liquid-Plumber drain opener, and Lucite paint.

Mennen products include Speed-Stick and Lady Speed Dry deodorant, Afta after shave lotion, Hawk cologne, Mennen after shave, Millionaire cologne, Skin Bracer toiletries, Baby Magic shampoo, Protein 29 hair products, and Smooth Legs shaving lotion.

--30--

Seminary students minister  
amid China's tragedy

By Chip Alford

F- (O)  
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press  
7/24/89

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The wounds of this summer's massacre in China will be difficult to heal, but a team of seminary students turned the tragedy into a ministry opportunity during a recent study and mission trip to nearby Macao.

"I had a real sense that God had put us there at that time because he wanted us to learn and understand the way China really was," said Scott Smith, one of six students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, who made the trip to study at the Graduate Institute of Chinese Ministries.

The students studied in Macao, a Portuguese colony on the edge of southeastern China. They arrived June 3, the night violence began in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

"That Saturday night we stayed up all night and watched the reports on television," Smith said. "We didn't sleep much.

"The people (in Macao) were obviously very upset. There is a great sense of family among the Chinese people. A young Christian man at a Bible study we went to the first night told me as he watched television the bullets didn't pierce his body but they pierced his heart.

"These people have deep, deep hurts. The scars were just beginning to heal from the Cultural Revolution, and (the massacre) was just like somebody coming along and reopening the wound."

--more--

Gary House, another student who made the trip, recalled a demonstration in Macao the day after the massacre. A large crowd gathered for a sit-in outside the Bank of China, and posters and signs were placed around the city.

"But it was more of a time of mourning," said House. "The students wore black arm bands, and there were black ribbons tied to all the taxis. It was a very sad place."

The Southwestern students said many of the Chinese wanted to talk about the massacre in Beijing and its consequences, especially since Portugal will return Macao to China in 1999. Missionaries they talked with have used the massacre in their witnessing, Smith said.

The students themselves shared their testimonies with in the homes of many Chinese families in Macao. Smith and House preached on a street five minutes from the Chinese border.

"I was out there preaching on the street, and that was scary to me. But just to know that there are people walking by that have never heard the name of Jesus -- it's just amazing," Smith said.

House shared the gospel with 11 girls living in one small apartment in Macao. Only three of the girls were Christians, but three more accepted Christ after House's witness. Still, he left China more impressed with the evangelistic efforts of the Chinese.

"I learned that the Chinese are much bolder in their witness," said House. "They are not afraid to share their faith."

On the last week of their trip, the students, accompanied by missionaries, ventured into mainland China. They had planned to visit Canton but decided against it after learning troops were stationed outside the city. Instead, the group visited the tourist city of Guilin.

"There were no protests in Guilin, just a general emptiness of foreigners," Smith remembered. "Normally, this is a big tourist time for them, but because of what happened, there was nobody there. We would walk into a banquet room with 50 tables, and all the waiters and waitresses would be sitting around a table drinking tea. They knew something was wrong, ... but they didn't know what the truth was."

The students attended services at the government-approved Three-Self Church in Guilin, which House described as "very much like an informal Protestant service. They sang hymns, had Bible readings and preaching, but there was no invitation. The church is the only place where they can have open evangelism, but invitations are usually given on a more personal basis."

The seminary students spent a day with a group of university students from Guilin and talked with other Chinese people. They also distributed Bibles.

The experience left the Smiths and House committed to a ministry to Chinese people.

"It was a real confirmation of our calling," said Smith. "It was good for our spiritual lives to realize that God has a place for us."